
Dragon Times Newsletter – Archive version

June 2008

Principal Letter

Dear Dragon Families:

I hope that you are enjoying the last few days of our school year and taking advantage of the many activities we have scheduled. As we look forward to the end of the year, we do so with pride in the many accomplishments of our students and staff.

This year has gone by quickly. It seems like only yesterday we were welcoming in the new school year and enjoying the Back to School picnic. In the fall, the Boo-Hoo Breakfast led to Applefest, the Multicultural Art Show, Trick-a-Dooring, Red Ribbon Week, Camp Arroyo and Out of the Box Night.

The winter brought us the Gala; the Good News Bears toy drive; basketball games; Cereal with Santa; the middle school winter formal; the Flames, Flares and Explosions Assembly; the Sock Hop; the book fair with a visit from Clifford, the 100th Day Celebration; and the Great Safety Adventure.

Spring was full of surprises including a great showing at the Regional MathCounts, Tri Valley Science and Engineering Fair, National Science Bowl, and State Science Fair competitions; Disco and Dine; Ms. Wagle's Teacher of the Year award; impressive volleyball, golf, and track seasons; the Read-a-Thon; Fitness Week; the Art Expo; Alice in Wonderland; the California Independent Film Fest along with a visit from the movie stars; the Backseat Challenge; the unanimous vote at the ACCS; the Science Expo; the instrumental music concert; the Washington D.C. trip; the Rhinestone Ropers; and the end of the year dance and BBQ. We still have the AR Reading Awards, Talent Show, the Charter School Junior Olympics, and the Alameda County Fair to look forward to.

The staff and I look forward to seeing you at Orientation on August 21, at the Back to School Picnic on August 22, and on the first day of school on August 26. We will be starting off our new year with the "School of Our Dreams Assembly" facilitated by our new character education program "Soul Shoppe" (www.soulshoppe.com). Curriculum Night for K-2 will be held on September 2, Grades 3-5 on September 3, and Grades 6-8 on September 4.

I continue to be impressed with our students' determination and the way they are taking responsibility for their education. Even when the obstacles and challenges are great, Dragons find a way to be successful. Thank you for all your support and I look forward to calling you on July 10 with the great news that we have been renewed for five years!

Congratulations to our first graduating class! We wish you the best of luck. We will miss you.

GO DRAGONS!

Mrs. Aderman

June 2	Dragon Zone information meeting, 6:30 pm (MPR)
June 3-7	8th grade Washington D.C. trip
June 5	LCLC Board meeting, 7 pm (MPR)
June 6	Talent show, 8:30 and 10 am (students only), 7 pm for families and friends
June 8	Charter School Junior Olympics, Stanford University
June 10	Accelerated Reader Awards Assembly, 8:30 am FAC meeting, 6 pm (library)
June 11	Early release day, noon dismissal (kindergarten 11:30 am)
June 12	Last day of school! Noon dismissal (8th grade, 10:30 am) Kindergarten celebration, 10 am Eighth grade promotion, 5 pm
June 13	Start of the Livermore Public Library's summer reading game
June 19	LCLC Board meeting, 7 pm, MPR
June 26	Joint CCEF/PTO meeting, 7:15 pm (MPR)
July 9/10	State Board of Education votes on LVCS charter renewal

2008/09 School Year Dates

August 21	Orientation
August 22	Back to School picnic
August 26	First day of school

Introducing Soul Shoppe

LVCS is pleased to introduce a new program for the 2008/09 school year to support us in creating an even better learning environment for our students. Soul Shoppe has been working actively in schools for the last six years. The program was created by founders Joseph Savage and Vicki Abadesco, who are seasoned educators with over 30 years of experience working with youth and adults.

Soul Shoppe provides interactive assembly programs that teach students important skills to support them academically and emotionally through life. The skills focus on problem-solving, conflict resolution, creating a community of learning and growth, and defining and internalizing the character traits that create great communities and citizens.

The objectives of the program include:

- Creating optimal learning environments: a foundation of respect
- Personal empowerment: awareness around choices we make
- Skill building: to navigate life powerfully
- Community enhancement: promote empathy and a high level of functioning for all
- Joyful living: encourage a sense of freedom in all we do.

Throughout the year, we will have grade-level workshops focused on particular character traits. We will begin with Respect and Responsibility as the foundation. For a list of monthly traits, check the school calendar. We encourage parents and families to check out the monthly workshops and learn with us.

In addition to the whole school assemblies, the Peace Program will train 30 student Peacemakers who will support their student peers in resolving conflicts in and out of the classroom. The Peacemakers will receive a four-part leadership training where they will learn communication tools and conflict resolution skills.

For more information about Soul Shoppe check out www.soulshoppe.com or call (415) 334-0463.

LVCS Has Talent!

Dragons will be showing off their talents this Friday at the LVCS Talent Show. Performances will be at 8:30 and 10 am (students only) and 7 pm for families and friends. Students will be singing, playing music, dancing, demonstrating martial arts katas, and much, much more.

LVCS Art at the Alameda County Fair

LVCS students have submitted hundreds of entries to the Alameda County Fair! To see all our wonderful artwork—paintings, drawings, sculpture, and more—visit the Fair from June 20 through July 6. Students who submitted art will receive a one-time admission pass to the Fair.

Summertime is almost here!

Just nine days of school left! Our wonderful teachers have lots of exciting plans to fill their days out of the classroom. Ms. Yonker (2nd/1st grade) plans to spend time with her family, work at a summer day camp, catch some A's games, jet ski on Lake Tahoe, and stay up past 8:30 pm.

Many staff members will use the long summer days for exercise. Mr. Karter (Athletics director) says he'll spend the summer getting his gluteus maximus in shape. Ms. Duncan (K) plans to do a lot of kayaking. Ms. Zischka (1st/2nd) will participate in her first adventure race and cheer on her kids in their summer swim meets.

Plenty of our teachers will be traveling over vacation. Ms. Quinn (4th/3rd) will spend some relaxing days on the beach in Hawaii. Ms. Pennybacker (4th/3rd) will travel to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina with her son's traveling baseball team. She also plans to spend time in Pine Mountain Lake at her family's vacation home. Ms. Morgan (1st/2nd) and her family will take their annual trip to Disneyland and maybe another trip to Seattle. She also plans to camp, watch movies, and sleep late.

Ms. Baird (1st/2nd) will spend six weeks in Costa Rica. For four weeks she'll be in language school, and the rest will be spent traveling, with a few nights doing volunteer work with turtles. Ms. Miura (4th/3rd) will venture to Cuba

Looking for ideas for how to spend your long summer days? Here are some suggestions from LVCS staff members:

"It's always fun to take the ferry from Oakland into San Francisco for the day to visit museums." – Ms. Pennybacker

"Go rock climbing, hike Del Valle or the wind caves at Mt Diablo, or have a 'camp week' at home with your kids." – Ms. Zischka

"Brushy Peak in Livermore is a fun, quick, and easily accessible nature area. You can get to it from North Livermore Avenue, at the end of Laughlin Road. We've seen cottontails, frogs, cows, turkeys, and beetles all in a single outing!" – Ms. Morgan

"Try the flying trapeze at Trapeze Arts in Oakland (www.trapezearts.com/ or 510-419-0700)." – Ms. Miura

"Rocking climbing, backpacking, camping, exercising, swimming, ..." – Mr. Karter

"Tri for Fun at Shadow Cliffs! (www.onyourmarkevents.com/TriForFunInfo.htm)" – Ms. Quinn.

"Summer reading program at the Livermore library for kids, game night for families, and salsa dancing for parents!" Ms. Yonker.

"Del Valle Wednesday evening kayaking classes, through Sunrise Mountaineering (www.sunrisemountainsports.com or 925-447-8330)" – Ms. Duncan

Catch the Reading Bug this Summer

Students can catch the Reading Bug through the Livermore Public Library's Summer Reading Game. From June 13 to August 16, kids can earn passes to go swimming and bowling and enjoy ice cream, pizza, hot dogs and more—just by reading. Anyone who reads 100 books (50 pages counts as one book) will receive a medal and be honored at a Livermore City Council meeting in September. Participants must report on the books they read at any of the Livermore Public Library's three branches or at Dragon Zone

(Dragon Zone kids only). For more, see the Library's website: <http://www.livermore.lib.ca.us/> (look in the Kids' Place section).

Dragon Zone "Sun-Sational" Summer is HERE!

The CCEF Dragon Zone Childcare will be having an action-packed summer, full of activities and adventures. Dragon Zone kids will enjoy a safe, fun, and meaningful summer experience. The Dragon Zone staff is working hard to plan activities for all ages.

Weekly themes, which include Welcome to the Jungle, Island Luau, All American, Movie Madness, Go Green!, Desert Sands, The Great Outdoors, Wacky Water Works, and DZ Carnival, will inspire our age appropriate curriculum. Every Friday will be "spirit" day. Children dressed in theme apparel will receive prizes.

We are excited to present entertaining and educational shows by Happy Birds, Monkey Business productions, Daffy Dave, a mobile petting zoo and more. Back by popular demand, this summer Dragon Zone will offer karate and gymnastics. In addition we are proud to announce weekly swimming trips to the Granada High School pool.

Children attending Dragon Zone can participate in the Livermore Library's summer reading game earning prizes and medals right here at LVCS. In addition to our planned curriculum, shows, field trips, and clubs there will be plenty of time to play, hang out, relax, and just enjoy being with friends during summer vacation.

The Dragon Zone staff is really enjoying spending quality time with the LVCS students, and we are looking forward to being able to continue to do so throughout the summer. It's going to be a "Sun-Sational" Summer at Dragon Zone!

For more information about registering your child in Dragon Zone, please join us at our orientation/information night Monday, June 2, at 6:30 pm in the MPR.

Thank you to all who have already donated books, toys, and games that will enrich our program. We will continue to collect donations through the end of the school year (donation box is located outside the main LVCS office in hall A).

To reach the Dragon Zone office, please call 960-9866 or e-mail us at dragonzone@ccefonline.org.

Science Expo Kudos

In the past few days I have received many compliments on our recent Science Expo. While I appreciate the comments, I must insist that I didn't do it alone. The following people or organizations were essential to making this year's expo happen:

- Kristen Salcedo -- created posters and flyers, typed up a master spreadsheet of projects, took charge of our refreshment area, sorted hundreds of evaluations, assembled the award certificates and did many other miscellaneous tasks.
- Dan Kalantar -- designed our interviewer evaluation form, was in charge of the Multi-Purpose Room layout and recruited LLnL scientist interviewers.
- Sue Johnston -- recruited 8th grade students interviewers and provided valuable advice throughout the year.
- Susan Bothwell -- recruited most of our parent volunteer interviewers.
- Dan White -- helped with the Multipurpose Room set up.
- Mike Rushford -- taught us all how do do better interviews.
- Tony Salcedo -- took student pictures on the day of the expo.
- Denny Roland -- took student pictures on the day of the expo.
- Michelle Fitts -- prepared her students so well for the expo.
- Heidi Preece -- did an amazing job teaching third graders how to do a science fair project.

- PTO -- provided advance funding for the display boards and coffee for our interviewers.

Finally I'd like to thank the 40 or so adults and 8th grade students who spent the morning interviewing our science expo candidates. That morning was what all the year's work was for! Your enthusiasm and dedication were very much appreciated.

Susan Wijeyesekera

Elementary Science Specialist

Science Club

Susan Bothwell and Science Specialist Susan Wijeyesekera representing the 2007-2008 LVCS Science Club would like to thank those who volunteered their time so generously this past year for the club. The list of people who helped make this a successful program include Cat Taylor, Steve Schrodi, Becky Simpson, Peter Zischka, Leslie Mesarchik, Liz Wilkins, Charlie Wortham, Katie Strube, Steve Howard (owner of Livermore Cyclery), and Kenneth Foster (science storyteller). Topics covered this past year (groups that were divided by ages K thru 2nd and 3rd thru 5th) included Tarantulas, Simple Machines, Rockets (water and air puff), Circuits, Scat, Seed Dispersal, Bike Physics, Snakes, Evolution, Bath Fizz Chemistry, Owl Pellets, Galileo, Horticulture, Geology, Probability Theory, Mechanisms, Squid Dissection, a Zone 7 Water Presentation, Mammals, George Washington Carver and Light Diffraction. The Science Club has been a unique and valuable learning experience for both students as well as the instructors.

New PTO Board

Congratulations to the PTO Board for 2008/09 school year:

President	Janelle Rasmussen
Vice President	Diane Mosby
Volunteer Coordinator	Hollie Detert
Secretary	Rudi Mullins
Historian	Daniele Duperly
Family Community Coordinator	Jessica Calkins
Treasurer	open

The PTO Board Still Needs a Treasurer. Contact Janelle Rasmussen at rasmussen47@comcast.net if interested."

Sports Page

Track

The LVCS Middle School Track team competed in two meets this May. The first meet was held at East Avenue Middle School on May 1, and the second was at Junction Middle School on May 8. Middle school track events include individual running races (from 50 yards up to one mile), relay races (where teams of four pass a baton), and field events (high jump, standing broad jump, shot-put and javelin). LVCS track team members include: Brandon Clutter, Tyler Crevelt, Callie Crowe, Yvonne Farner, Barrett Farner, Roman Gerhard, Fiona Gregg, Alia Gross, Holly Harness, Nicholas Held, Alexandra Hernandez, Alyssa Horning, Austin Horning, Spencer Jeppson, Lacey Johnson, Wali Kamal, Christine Kunzler, Brielle Preece, Crysta Reece, Max Renga, Carina Salcedo, Kelsey Wilkinson, Nick Winter, and Teva Venet. Congratulations to all our athletes. We're proud to have you representing LVCS.

Golf

Fore! The LVCS Dragons just finished their second season in the Tri-Valley Middle School Golf League. The season ran from mid-March through the end of May. This year there were 14 golfers on the team, including both boys and girls. The team was open to boys and girls in grades 6-8 and was coached by Mr. Connors and Mr. Brown. We had the privilege of playing Poppy Ridge Golf Course as our home course. The team also traveled and competed at Springtown Golf Course, Dublin Ranch, Las Positas, and Pleasanton this season.

The format consisted of six players competing against another team in a nine-hole competition. The top five scores were used to calculate a total team score. The lowest overall team score would win the match. LVCS golfers played against some of the best young golfers in the area.

Although there is competition, the most important part of the league is to get kids interested and involved in the sport. Educating the players on the fundamentals, etiquette, and rules of golf is the primary purpose of the team and the league. We are trying to develop lifelong players of this great game. We have the pleasure of introducing the sport to kids who had never picked up a club before, and by the end of the season the kids are playing in golf matches.

If you are interested in playing next year, look for information coming out around February or early March 2009. See Coach Switzer or Coach Karter for more details. You can also visit the website at www.tvmsgolf.com.

Volleyball

Coach Jen Petersen had this to say about the LVCS Dragon volleyball team:

“The LVCS Dragon volleyball team was a pleasure to work with. The girls all improved so much throughout the season. We hope they all decide to play again next year and each year after. Volleyball is a fun sport and well worth playing.”

The A Team Dragons

- # 18 Diana Gateno - the best setter on the team
- # 47 Izzy Scheibner - team cheerleader
- # 45 Jennifer Louie - team leader both when she was able to play and when she was injured on the sideline.
- # 49 Cynthia Hansen - all around player - strong in the back court and at the net.
- # 15 Laura Lopez - loves to dig those difficult spikes
- # 3 Sierra Winter - the serve receive specialist
- # 10 Nicole Mutimer - loves to pancake!
- # Rachel King - served up some “hard to handle” floaters
- # 55 Brooke Yarrington - intimidating at the net
- # 25 Megan Thompson - excellent defense in the back court and earned a few kills this season.

The B Team Dragons

- # 19 Hayley Warren - all around skills
- # 52 Cinthya Tolentino - strong plays at the net
- # 50 Cailey Kamm - excellent server
- # 11 Claire Hyde - the hardest hitter on the team
- # 17 Maura Hand - a team leader that never quit and always gave 100%
- # 12 Camaryn Bricker - willing to go above and beyond on each play
- # 7 Nicolle Glover - led her team to many victories with her service, defense, and positive attitude
- # 5 Katie Burns - strong server, positive attitude
- # 20 Christine Kunzler - all around player of the year
- # 16 Kiran Gill - like a moth to a flame, she gravitated towards every ball
- # 14 Alexandra Hernandez - most improved player of the year
- # Delaney Browning - strong defense

STUDENT STORE

The LVCS Student Store will accept only online orders for the remainder of the school year.

DEADLINE Orders will be accepted on an ongoing basis until inventory is exhausted. Please submit order form to the office or APPAREL MAILBOX in copy room.

DELIVERY Items will be delivered within one week of order submission.

LOOKING FOR LVCS APPAREL? For the latest LVCS Apparel updates, check online at www.ccefonline.org.

QUESTIONS? Contact Lesley at mezaroma@comcast.net or 925-787-0269.

INTERESTED in taking over LVCS Apparel? Contact Lesley at mezaroma@comcast.net.

Please contact Lesley Mesarchik (925-787-0269) with any questions about the store or the apparel.